

PSALM 119 81-96 – 2023 Meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God!

12/30/24 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

Psa 119:81 My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM - (1868) Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), Nat King Cole (2:21)

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above. While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth and praises sing to God our King And peace to men on earth

PSALM 119: Vs. 81-88: This portion of the gigantic Psalm sees the Psalmist in the extreme. His enemies have brought him to the lowest condition of anguish and depression; yet he is faithful to the law and trustful in his God. This octave is the midnight of the Psalm, and it is very dark and black. Stars, however, shine out, and the last verse gives promise of the dawn. The strain will after this become more cheerful; but meanwhile it should minister comfort to us to see so eminent a servant of God so hardly used by the ungodly: evidently in our own persecutions, no strange thing has happened unto us.

We have arrived at the center of this Psalm! The thread of **“Hitherto has the Lord brought me. Shall it be that I now perish?”** Shall now be broken to make the answer to **“The Lord’s Word changes not! In spite of all the evil around us, the Lord will perfect the work that He has already begun!** *Joseph Francis Thrupp, 1860.*

Vs. 89-96: The strain is more joyful, for experience has given the sweet singer a comfortable knowledge of the word of the Lord, and this makes a glad theme. After tossing about on a sea of trouble the Psalmist here leaps to shore and stands upon a rock. **Jehovah's word** is not fickle nor uncertain; it is settled, determined, fixed, sure, immovable. Man's teachings change so often that there is never time for them to be settled; but the Lord's word is from of old the same, and will remain unchanged eternally. In the former section David's soul fainted, but here the good man looks out of self and perceives that the Lord faints not, neither is weary, neither is there any failure in his word.

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Psa 119:81 My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.

- We can see in this the patience of my soul (breathing creature) waiting for God, for the word (commandment, speech) of God to be accomplished and my soul fainting for Your salvation (something saved, deliverance, aid), I'm waiting to see God work. Though my soul is fainting my hope (wait, trust) is still in the word of God and my eyes fail for Your word. That is almost weary, giving up in seeing the fulfillment of your word.

Psa 119:82 My eyes fail from searching Your word, Saying, "When will You comfort me?"

- His eyes gave out with eagerly gazing for the kind appearance of the Lord, while his heart in weariness cried out for speedy comfort.

Psa 119:83 For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, Yet I do not forget Your statutes.

- They had leather wineskins that they would smoke and in the smoking process it would cause them to sort of shrivel up and become hard. So, I am becoming shriveled and hard.
- Fire cannot consume it, and smoke cannot smother it. A man may be reduced to skin and bones, and all his comfort may be dried out of him, and yet he may hold fast his integrity and glorify his God. (*Job!*)

Psa 119:84 How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?

- How long Lord can I last? How long can I endure these things? When are you going to come and execute judgment of them that persecute me? When are you going to come Lord and deliver me? (*Jude 1:14-15*)
Enoch -Gen. 4; seventh from Adam -to execute judgment!)

Psa 119:85 The proud have dug pits for me, Which is not according to Your law.

- If men would keep to the statutes of the Lord, they would lift the fallen out of the pit, or fill up the pit so that none might stumble into it; but they would never spend a moment in working injury to others.
- While he kept to the law of the Lord he was safe, though even then it was an uncomfortable thing to have his path made dangerous by the craft of wanton malice.
- Going back to those times when they would trap animals many times by digging pits and covering it with branches and so forth. The digging of the pit is actually the setting of a trap. David speaks about his enemies who had set traps for him, they have *dug pits for me*.

Psa 119:86 All Your commandments are faithful; They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!

- *Faithful* – (firm, secure, true!) He had no fault to find with God's law, even though he had fallen into sad trouble through obedience to it. Whatever the command might cost him it was worth it; he felt that God's way might be rough, but it was right; it might make him enemies, but still it was his best friend. He believed that in the-end God's command would turn out to his own profit, and that he should be no loser by obeying it.
- “*They persecute me wrongfully.*” The fault lay with his persecutors, and neither with his God nor with himself. Whoever may hurt us, it matters not so long as the Lord *helps* us; for if indeed the Lord *helps* us, none can really hurt us.

Psa 119:87 They almost made an end of me on earth, But I did not forsake Your precepts.

Psa 119:88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

- Our best protection is more life!
- The psalmist has experienced tremendous calamity. His enemies are persecuting him, they are trying to set a trap for him, and it seems like God is silent. You know those are the most difficult times in our whole spiritual experience when we are under pressure, and it doesn't seem like God is doing anything. When it seems like God is silent and the pressure is increasing and I cry unto the Lord, there is where I need to have my faith rooted in the word of God as the psalmist declares concerning his own faith. He says, “I am hoping in Your word, I know that Your commandments are faithful. I did not forsake Your precepts and I will keep the testimony of Your mouth.”
- It is the word of God that sustained him through these dark hours. How many times in my own life when the pressures are on and it seems like you are going to be swallowed up with calamity, you have been waiting, and your eyes are failing as you wait upon the Lord, and you are almost giving up on any response or action? Then the Spirit leads you back to the word and you realize the faithfulness of God too! There is where your soul found rest. “God it is in Your hands and I'm going to trust in You.”
- That is such a beautiful place of rest when you finally come to that place where you exercised your emotions and all to where you are just wrung out. This is where you do not know where to turn and you know you cannot do anything and you come to that place where you say, “God, You are just going to have to take care of it. I just cannot do it!”
- Where you really turn it over to God that is the place of commitment That is what we mean when we talk about commitment. I am no longer striving with it and I am no longer struggling with it. I have turned it

over to the Lord and put it in His hands and said, “Lord, You’re just going to have to take care of it.”
When I come to that place of full commitment, then I rest because it is in the Lord’s hands.

- People are always trying to get you back in the middle of it and scare you, but you have that beautiful rest! It is in the Lord’s hands. Come what may, so the whole thing collapses, so the whole thing goes down the tubes, it’s in His hands. He must want it to go down the tubes. How can I stop it if that is what He wants? It is in His hands and you come to that rest of commitment.
- As long I am striving to see my will done I am going to wrestle with it and I am going to have mental turmoil when I am insisting that God, you do it my way or else. There is no rest as long as I am pushing and insisting that God see it my way and do it my way but when I say, “Lord You just do it, You just take care of it, the way You know is best. You do with it what You want to do” then I can kick back and say, “Well, it is in His hands. God is going to take care of it.”

LAMED - The next eight verses, begin with the Hebrew letter *Lamed*. We can see in these permanence. There are certain permanent things. The first that the psalmist mentions is the word of God.

Psa 119:89 Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

- There is no question. God’s word is established! It is settled forever! It does not change. It does not alter. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, My word shall never pass away.” Forever, it is permanent. The word of God is established, *settled in heaven*. Not only is the word of God a permanent thing.

Psa 119:90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.

- The word of God, the permanency of the word and the permanency of the faithfulness of God. We can trust God to be faithful through His word. *You established* the permanence that we see.

Psa 119:91 They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants.

- In other words, we can look around today and we can see the word of God is established and the faithfulness of God is continuing. The earth is still here. They continue this day according to Your ordinances. So, the eternal ordinances of God.
- For all are Your servants. That is God rules over His universe.

Psa 119:92 Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.

- If I had not been in the word of God when I was afflicted, I would have been wiped out. If it were not for the word of God sustaining me and helping me I could have been destroyed. The value of God’s word in our hearts keeping us in those times of affliction. Have you ever noticed that Satan takes advantage of our physical weaknesses to attack us spiritually and emotionally? It is amazing, you get down and get the flu or you get one of the viruses or something and you are feeling rotten to begin with, you do not feel like getting up and moving around much and you are just sort of lying there and Satan so often uses that as a time to attack. He does this especially if you are sick over a prolonged period, a couple of weeks or so, boy does he intensify his attacks. So, the word of God, I would have perished in my affliction if it were not for the fact that it was in the word!

Psa 119:93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life.

- Now here is something. He talks about the permanency of the things of God; the word, the faithfulness and so forth yet here is another permanency.
- I like that. It is a response on my part. There will be things that I will be permanent in. One is the precepts of God! I will not forget them which give me life-giving energy! ***For by them You have given me life.***

Psa 119:94 I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.

- A comprehensive prayer with a prevailing argument. Consecration is a good plea for preservation. If we are conscious that we are the Lord's, we may be confident that He will save us. We are the Lord's by creation, election, redemption, surrender and acceptance!
- ”“*For I have sought Your precepts.*” Thus had he proved that he was the Lord's. He might not have attained to all the holiness which he desired, but he had studiously aimed at being obedient to the Lord, and hence he begged to be saved even to the end. If we have sought the Lord we may be sure that the Lord has sought us and will certainly save us!

Psa 119:95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me, But I will consider Your testimonies.

- They have been in ambush trying to wipe me out.
- *Your testimonies* are really the stories of the Old Testament, the stories of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, the stories of Joshua, David, Samson, and Gideon. These are the testimonies of God's work on behalf of His people. These are great for us to study and to absorb because we realize God is keeping power and God's preservation of his people in the times of adversity, trial, warfare or whatever. We see how God can cause the righteous to triumph over insurmountable odds. Thus, the testimonies of God give me hope! They give me courage. They give me strength and they give me that kind of bravery to go out and to challenge the enemy that outnumbers me hopelessly. “If God be for me who can be against me?”
- I consider Lord what You have done to the wicked in the past. He remembers the stories about God taking care of the wicked and has destroyed the wicked.

Psa 119:96 I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

- Of all of the things that I see upon the earth that seem to be perfect, I can see their end. I can see the limitations to them. But! I see no limits to the commandments! The word of God is so *broad*, so all encompassing.

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD *Maltbie Babcock Franklin Shepherd Dallas Christian Choir (2:09)*

1 This is my Father's world, And to my list'ning ears All nature sings, and round me rings

The music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world: The birds their carols raise, The morning light, the lily white,

Declare their Maker's praise. This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;

In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

3 This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world, The battle is not done:

Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and Heav'n be one.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!

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